

Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue #106 March 2010



GUILD SUPPLIES

BOOKS

Geoffrey Budworth

Plaited Moebius Bends £2.50*

Knotlore 2 - *a miscellany of quotes from fact and fiction* £2.50*

Knot Rhymes and Reasons £1.50*

The Knot Scene £2.00*

Brian Field

Breastplate Designs £3.50*

Concerning Crosses £2.00*

Eric Franklin

Turksheads the Traditional Way £1.50*

Nylon Novelties £2.00*

Stuart Grainger

Knotcraft £4.00*

Ropefolk £1.30*

Knotted Fabrics (Hardback) £9.00

Colin Jones

The DIY Book of Fenders £9.95

Harold Scott

A Guide to the Multi, Single-Strand Cruciform Turk's

Head £4.00*

Skip Pennock

Decorative Woven Flat Knots with CD £12.50*

* Bulk purchases of these items are available at a discount -
phone for details

Supplies Secretary – Colin Byfleet
Oaken Cleave, Cobbarton, Umberleigh, EX37 9SG, UK

Knot Charts

Full set of 100 charts - £10.00

Individual charts - £0.20

Knotting Matters

Some past editions available

Contact the Secretary for details

Rubber Stamp

IGKT Member, with logo

(excludes ink stamp pad) £4.00

Certificate of Membership

Parchment membership scroll,

Signed by the President and Hon.

Sec., for mounting or hanging

£2.50

Guild Tie

Long, dark blue with Guild logo

in gold - £9.95

Badges – all with Guild Logo

Blazer badge - £1.00

Enamel brooch - £2.00

Windscreen sticker - £1.00

Cheques payable to IGKT, PayPal or simply send your credit card details
PS Don't forget to allow for postage

Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 106 - March 2010

www.igkt.net

Except as otherwise indicated, copyright in Knotting Matters is reserved to the International Guild of Knot Tyers IGKT 2009. Copyright of member's articles published in Knotting Matters is reserved to the authors and permission to reprint should be sought from the author and editor. All sources of quotations printed in Knotting Matters are acknowledged.

ADVERTISING RATES

	Members	Non-members
Full Page	£50	£70
Half Page	£25	£35
Quarter Page	£15	£20
Full (colour)	£140	£170

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front:

This cat-tree for a cat-lover's family was made by Karl Bareuther in Germany as a special order - looks like this kitty will have a very special time. See "How I Did It", p 14.

Back:

Joe Bennett has sent us another fine piece of work, over which he appears to have taken some special care. See "How I Did It" feature on page 14.

The Council have decided to change the Guild contact address back to that of the Secretary:

Barry Mault Hon. Secretary, International Guild of Knot Tyers
144 Millhouse Lane,
WIRRAL,
CH46 6DT,
UK

We are currently using a Post Office Box with mail actually delivered to the secretary but this costs £125 per year and is not transferable to a successor or if the secretary should move house, so offers no advantage (it can actually delay mail slightly). Rather than wait until the PO Box falls to be renewed for another year we have decided to make the change now so that any mail addressed to the PO Box will still be delivered without our having to pay for it to be redirected. All documentation either will be or has been amended.

Barry Mault
Hon. Secretary

Features

13 Letter from our President

30 The Red String reviewed by **Knut Knute** - an interesting small book....

31 Book Review

43 Last word by Hon Sec Barry Mault

8 - 12 Knot the Way Round - part 2 of a two-part story from Past President **Jeff Wyatt** and **Lesley Wyatt**

18 -19 Mystical & Metaphysical Knots by **Knut Knute**

20 - 21 Guild Objectives for 2010 by **Council for the IGKT**

Member comments are welcomed

Regulars

4 From the Editor's blotter

5 Notes from the Mousepad

6 - 7 Letters to the Editor

14-17 How I Did It

35 Branch Lines

22 - 23 Center page spread of cats in fine form - with a true icicle hitch!

24 - 26 Scaling Ladders - a response

from **Colin Grundy**

27 1902 Hawser-laid Cable - postcard sent to us by **Tony Fisher**

29 The Cody Knot by **Howard Denyer**

32 - 34 One Stranded Sixfold Knot by **Tibor Fuzi**, translated by **Karl Bareuther**

41 - 42 ...and now for something completely different

44 Knotting Diary and Calendar - do keep us up-to-date with your latest news - this is your space, all of it.

EDITOR

Lindsey Philpott
Tel: 1-562/595-8854
Email: knottingmatters@igkt.net

HON. SECRETARY

Barry Mault
Tel: +1144 (0)151 678 3619
Email: barry@lizziemint.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124
Email: bruce.turley@blueyonder.co.uk

PRESIDENT

Dan Machowski
Tel: 1-843/795-9240
Email: president@igkt.net

GUILD POSTAL ADDRESS

for all correspondence
Hon Sec, IGKT
144 Millhouse Lane
Wirral, CH46 6DT, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Annual Subscription Rates

Juniors	£5
Adults	£23
Families	£27
Group	£10

Corporate - by arrangement

The IGKT is a UK Registered Charity
No. 802153

PRINTED BY

Gipping Press Ltd.
Needham Market
Tel: 01449 721599
Fax: 01499 721372

ISSN 0959-2881

4 From the Editor's Blotter

Your help is most appreciated - my thanks to you if you sent me something in response to my last note from this seat, and my thanks to all who are yet to send in your thoughts, ideas, letters, notes, knots and other pieces for consideration. You will see from this issue that we have something of a mixed bag as usual - I hope that you find it entertaining, informative and perhaps a little nostalgic also. We received more possible selections for the 'Six-Word Challenge' and no winners have yet been chosen. Perhaps next quarter we could have your favorite identified - drop me a line! What would you like to see here? We had a request for more knots, and some knots have transpired. We had a request or two for some discussion and we have been blessed with more open and frank discovery.

My thanks to all who asked about the design of the 'sea star' presented on the cover of KM#105. The design was produced as a result of studying the 'Snowflake Knot' shown by US member Pat Ducey, and the fine designs in Skip Pennock's 'Flat Mats' book - both great sources, thank you! Why a 'sea star'? Well, it is the depth of winter with the winter solstice barely passing the folks in the northern hemisphere, while those in the southern hemisphere are seeing wonderful starry nights in clear warm skies. The seas unite us and the stars are visible for free to all. They also remind us that the stars visible in the Oscar parties and on television screens are only copies of the 'real' stars, those who support us in our everyday work and lives. To the physicians, nurses, EMTs, firefighters, police, military personnel, coastguard and lifeboatmen, hazmat crews and all others who keep us from harm or pick up the pieces when our lives are a mess or when we are suffering, particularly when they help us in time of dire need under the distress of natural disasters - you are our stars, and we trust that you will always be there!

Wishing you all good speed, fair words and photos, and fair leads.

Sincerely yours, **Lindsey Philpott**

In Memoriam - Willard W. Salmons, CA, USA

I am very saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Salmons - deceased January 4, 2010, in San Jose, California. Although I never met the gentleman, I do recall a number of articles he submitted to Knot News and especially one letter he wrote recounting his knotting adventures as a US Navy sailor in the 1930's. As a regular duty in those days they would regularly knot, splice and even point the ropes and hawsers they handled. Fancywork was also a way to keep everyone busy and to dress ship. These are things our modern bluejackets don't have the time or the talent for anymore.

Mr. Salmons always did seem very keen on knotting and I, for one, will surely miss him.

Joe Schmidbauer, IGKTPAB

Notes from the Mousepad

Another busy 3 months has flown by and again it's time for me to put finger to keyboard. First I welcome Colin Byfleet as our new Supplies Secretary. Colin has taken over from Bruce Turley who has been handling supplies on a temporary basis. Our website has seen some changes including a new "Goods for Sale" page (as it's easier to recognise than "Supplies"). We have introduced online payments via Paypal (you don't need a Paypal account just a debit or credit card including Amex) for both membership subscriptions and items we sell. This is far safer from everyone's perspective as well as being a lot easier all round so I encourage you to use it rather than send credit card details on paper.

In this issue you will see that the Council have developed an Annual Plan (also on the website) so everyone can see what we are trying to achieve this year. This is the first time this has been tried and I hope it is stretching for us. Your help would be appreciated especially in recruiting new members, but if there is any area where you feel you can offer assistance then please let me know. We will report progress at the AGM and then send a report to all members via Knotting Matters.

The papers for the AGM are enclosed with this issue (these have also been posted on the website) and can I please urge all attendees to return the form telling me your requirements especially for meals and accommodation and possibly most important if you have not given advance notice you will not be able to access the bar!

You will see that we are proposing a number of changes to the Constitutional Rules which, to avoid having to debate each separate amendment, have been redrafted. All changes are set out in the explanatory note but if anyone who cannot attend the AGM has a question or comment then please write to me (preferably by e-mail) and I'll do my best to help. If you wish I will ensure that your comment is brought to the attention of attendees and attribute it to you or anonymously as you wish (sounds a bit like I'm the best man at a wedding but it's important that everyone has a chance to be heard).

Finally I have referred a couple of times to material being published on our website (www.igkt.net) so if you have Internet access it is a good idea to have a look occasionally at what changes have been made. Many of our knot charts have been placed upon the website (under "Publications" for the moment) as a download. These have not had any major updates since they were created in the early days of the Guild. We are currently working on additions from the Knotmaster Series from KM, but we are also looking for more material. If you feel you would like to contribute a few knots, then please send drawings and text to me. All authors will be acknowledged.

At the foot of the Home page is a link to Announcements on the Forum – anything of importance will be here but other changes might also be of interest and we can publish documents such as the AGM arrangements within a day or two of their being approved, so do have a look. Finally I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM in May.

Barry Mault
Honorary Secretary

Letters To The Editor

Dear Lindsey:

I am in general agreement with 'Knut Kanute' regarding the uses to which knots are put. My own learning experience has been to concentrate on the practical knots first. Despite the elegance of their mechanical construction, they lack visible attractiveness, which is not to say that the visibly attractive knots lack utility, but to stress the primary importance of something that has been essential for millennia.

Owen Nuttall's pictures and description of the 'Cullera Splices' intrigued me. This method of splicing has been quite common and Ashley's book is replete with examples. Ashley refers to this method as 'backing' the strands, contrasted with the more conventional over-and-under 'tucked' strands - the splices sometimes being described as 'backhanded splices'. There are examples of long and short 'backhanded' splices (ABOK #2695/#2697/#2698); eye splices (ABOK #2754 et seq.); dog-pointing, with, or without crowning first (ABOK #2814/#2816/#2818); and multi-strand ring hitches. I have made a very pretty eye splice called the 'wormed and collared eye splice', which is formed by an initial conventional tuck, followed by the removal of yarns and the making of nettles, after which the remaining yarns are 'backed' down the standing part to finish the splice. Then, some nettles are wormed down the splice (which can be done only with a 'backhanded splice'), then a footrope knot tied at the bottom and another at the neck of the eye with the remaining nettles. I have a feeling that the mechanical stability of this splice owes more to the initial conventional tuck and the footrope knots, than to the backed splice.

I do not consider the 'backed splice' to be particularly stable, especially in man-made fibre rope. I made a multi-strand ring hitch (ABOK #2859) which used backed strands, with Dacron rope. The splice came apart readily when strain was applied, yet a similar splice (ABOK #2860) using 'tucked', i.e. over-and-under splicing held well under strain. Indeed Ashley himself states that backed short splices, which are made by the sail maker to be put into boltrope, are the more stable since they are supported by their being stitched to the canvas. The rope in Mr. Nuttall's pictures seems to be Nylon, which would explain the inordinate length of the splices. Knots need friction and a backhanded splice has parallel strands wound around each other, which inherently lacks the friction of the multiple 'nipped' strands of conventional tucking, the friction between which increases with increasing load on the splice.

Sincerely,

John Heselton

Dear Sirs

Unless I'm wrong I think that I've come up with a unique method of tying the Rosendahl Knot (a.k.a. Zeppelin Bend). I found the "6g" method a bit awkward because often during final tightening the ends either pop out of place or they bind when tugged. The method I'll describe is essentially similar to Mr Budworth's method except that the first shaping and grasping of the parts is different and most of the movement is done with one hand. Since this knot is so elegant and strong, I wanted to develop a stable, memorable method. I use the clover shape and a poem as a memory device. (Note: I've never read or heard the term "underhand knot" but I thought it aptly described the starting point of this knot...if one starts this knot by taking the end over the standing part, instead of under, my method won't work.)

My Best Regards,

Robert Narracci

New Haven, CT 06511 [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wSVdUQhBt8>]

Rosendahl Knot a.k.a. Zeppelin Bend

An underhand knot

Is the place to start

But pinch it into a clover

Climb the long stem of the clover

And then bring the end over

Climb the short stem through

Then cinch the knot true

From: Bernard Collier Sent: 11 December 2009 05:17

To: chairman@igkt.net Subject: Knotting Matters

Mr Chairman,

For this Indian from the Kuna Tribe selling his wares on a Panama City street, Knotting really does Matter - his livelihood depends on it. I thought it might amuse your readers and the workmanship is quite unique.

Bernard Collier

PS they are my old copies from the eighties



KNOT THE WAY ROUND

Part 2 of a story by Lesley and Jeff Wyatt

[Ed. Recall that Lesley and Jeff had just joined Colin Grundy and Jane Bamford in Hobart, Tasmania - the story continues....]

Colin and I spent most of our time, together with Madeleine Rawle and Dave Glasson, from Sydney, and Frank on the "May Queen" [*see her below*], an 1867 two-masted sailing ship which was being refurbished by voluntary members of the Maritime Museum of Hobart,



including Frank. Dave had also brought over some of the model boats he had made, which were to be part of a large display of model boats. The first day was pretty wet, but this didn't seem to stop the visitors. After that the weather was much kinder, and Jane and Lesley wandered about looking at all the lovely boats and visiting many of the stands. It was quite an international gathering of IGKT members. There was a constant stream of visitors to the May Queen [*below*],

most interested in the boat herself, but many were intrigued by the display of ropework on show. We were all kept very busy demonstrating knots or answering questions about knots, but I managed to make some time to have a look around and even got involved in showing some ropework to people on another old sailing boat [*below*]. On the evening before Jane and Colin left to continue their brief trip around Tasmania, we had a BBQ back at our campsite.



After saying goodbye to Hobart, we carried on our tour of the island and headed northwest. We stayed for a couple of nights at Queenstown, an old copper-mining town. It looked quite an interesting place, so we strolled around town looking at the old buildings and visited the Museum, which was so good for such a little place that I gave them a bellrope to replace the bit of string they had on the bell in their reception.

At the end of February we finally arrived back in Devonport and went straight to book in at the Mersey Bluff Caravan Park which was the closest to the Maritime Museum. We had made sure that we had enough time to do as Bob (the Curator of the Museum) had requested when we first arrived in Tasmania, and spend some time showing the visiting public a few knots. He also wanted Lesley to be there with her pyrography and carvings. I went there the first day while Lesley stayed back at the campsite. Whilst I was there, a photographer from one of the local papers (arranged by Bob) arrived to take some pictures and interview me. The following day we both got set up in the main part of the Museum. The Lady Mayor arrived (not particularly to see us) but for a meeting at the Museum – we had a nice little chat with her. There then arrived a journalist from another local paper to do a piece on Lesley – complete with pictures. Unfortunately both papers wouldn't be out until the following week so we didn't know how the articles turned out until we collected our mail at Lesley's aunt's place in NSW several months later. There were quite a few visitors over the few days that we were there, most of them very interested in what we were doing. There were some very interesting examples of ropework on exhibition in the Museum.

We returned to Melbourne and after a few days there, and in a small town called Upwey, visiting a pyrographer friend of Lesley's, we carried on along the coast. As we drove through the town of Sale we spotted a market and stopped to have a look around. As the weather wasn't all that good some of the stallholders had started to pack up, but there was still enough to see. We were coming to the end of the market when I spotted a stall that had some rope, and it turned out that this was a guy who calls himself The Rope Bloke – just what I had been looking for. Finding a decent rope supplier has been very difficult over here and I think I was despairing of ever find anything better than what was available from hardware stores. Well, The Rope Bloke was just packing up his stall, but after chatting for a while said that he lived near Bairnsdale and we would be most welcome to visit him and his wife and have a look at the rest of his stock. As Bairnsdale was our next intended stop we decided to stay for a few days, and call in just before we left. I'm really glad we did as he had a really good stock of rope of all different sizes, types and colours. I bought enough to last at least until the end of our trip. After Bairnsdale came Lakes Entrance and then Mallacoota. Lesley had been doing her usual thing looking at maps to find interesting places to visit, and had come across what looked a lovely spot right next to a large inlet. Mallacoota proved to be a great find – we arrived intending to stay just a couple of days, but it was nearly two weeks before we departed. We got on very well with Wolfie and Gisela, the couple who were sited next to us. I was playing around with some pieces of string and both Wolfie and Ian, another nearby camper, were fascinated, so I ended up having a couple of knotting sessions with them.



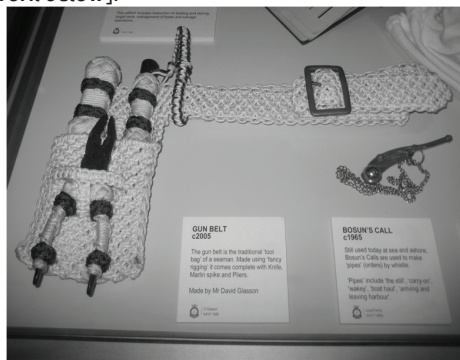
Something really strange happened on in the next town, Eden, just over the border in NSW. We had parked in the main street and Lesley was doing a bit of shopping. I was waiting in Betty G minding my own business when a big coach caught our bullbar. No damage to us, but a dirty great deep scratch on the coach. A gentleman walking by glanced across, I suppose to see if we had suffered any damage, and spotted our IGTK sticker on the windscreen. *[two learners in Eden - left]*

"Are you a member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers?" he asked. And so we met IGKT member John Bennett [*below with Jeff*], who lives very near Eden. "Come into the bus and have a chat" says I. So there we are chatting about knots whilst Lesley carried on with her shopping. After a while John said that he'd better get going but arranged to visit us at the caravan park on Monday. When Lesley returned we headed off down to the jetty to do some fishing – and who should turn up alongside me but John with his family who were visiting for Easter. Two of our neighbours in the Garden of Eden Caravan Park have expressed an interest in knots so I've already been giving lessons. On Monday John and his wife Sue, paid us a visit and we had a great knotting session. I showed him how to make keyfobs using Luc Prouveur's monkey's fist pattern, and using the widgets from cans of Guinness.



Whilst I was there I got 'roped-in' (sorry about that) to give a talk on knots to a large group of naval cadets. I was then allowed to see the Naval archives where all the artifacts from de-commissioned Australian Navy ships are stored. There were an awful lot of bellropes there including some made by the late Charles Thomasson, a Guild member who lived in Cairns. The Commanding Officer who was showing me around apparently had no idea who had made them and was very interested. On the road again, we turned off the Pacific Highway towards Forster/Tuncurry as we had met a couple of knot-tyers the last time we were here in 2004. We had been told that one of them, Ron, had died, but we still wanted to catch up with his friend, Dan (the guy who had given me the Sailor's Union wallet). I phoned, and found that in fact it was Dan who had died, so I had a rather awkward conversation with his widow. Unfortunately she didn't know if Ron was still around. We tried to contact him, but couldn't track him down. He wasn't in the phone book either, so he must have left the area.

Sue and Lesley watched and chatted for the couple of hours of their visit. It was really great to meet them – even if it was purely by chance. We then headed up the coast to Sydney and stayed at the Lane Cove Tourist Park one of only two parks within the Sydney area. The following day we went to dinner with our knotting friend, Madeleine, who we'd met in Hobart, and her husband, Neville. Had a lovely evening in their house which is packed full of all different sorts of musical instruments. The next day Madeleine arranged for us to visit the Garden Island Naval Base. My goodness what a fascinating place. I had arranged with Dave Glasson (who we'd also met in Tassie at the Wooden Boat Festival) to visit the Naval Training Base at Spectacle Island [*Dave's work below*].



On up the coast, this time as far as Emerald Beach. We were going to stop overnight at Coffs Harbour, but decided that we had time to get a few more Ks done. Although we did stop at a small craft market where I met an Aboriginal guy who did some superb braided leatherwork. As we neared Surfers Paradise we called in to see Jim Caswell, a member of the knotting Guild living at Mermaid Waters. We were made very welcome by him and his wife Carmel, and spent a most enjoyable couple of hours with them. We intended to call in again on our way back down in a few weeks time – hopefully to spend a little more time then. *[Jeff Wyatt with Spectacle Island cadets - below]*



When we got to Brisbane we booked into a caravan park on the outskirts and took the bus into the City to have a look at the Maritime Museum. It was a bit of a distance from the bus stop, but the walk took us along the river through some lovely gardens. As we arrived at the Museum, the heavens opened!!! It's a very well-presented museum and we had a very knowledgeable guide to show us around. Out the back in a dry-dock is the frigate "Diamantina" and once the rain eased we trotted out to have a look round her. Fascinating! Whilst on board I spotted the ship's bell complete with a bellrope that I instantly identified as one of Charles Thomasson's. By the time we'd

finished, the rain was coming down again, but I braved it and returned to the main body of the Museum to meet with the Curator – and got a personal tour around bits of the Museum not usually seen by Joe Public (I was still sheltering from the rain on the ship). Once again we have an invitation to call in on our return for me to give a knotting demo.

Originally our intention was to go all the way up to Cairns in northern Queensland, but as we had already visited Cairns some years ago, we decided to go up as far as Rockhampton and then turn inland to check out the gemfields. We knew that there were Guild members in the area, and tried contacting them. Only one got back to us, Tony Yelland in Emerald. He wasn't available when we drove through the town (not apparently named after the gemstone, but because when settlers first came to the area it was very green). But he was able to visit us a few days later at our spot in the caravan park at Rubyvale. We had a great session and he also was very interested in my use of Guinness widgets as a fill for my monkey's fist keyfobs

Sadly we came to the time when we had to start back down to Sydney. We had arranged to spend a little knotting time with Jim Caswell. Unfortunately our visit was cut short when Jim received a call from his son asking Jim go to Brisbane and pick up his grandson who was unwell at school. So we swiftly packed up and took our leave. What a shame, but I do hope that the little lad is OK. Back down in Sydney we once again booked in to the Lane Cove Tourist Park. We spent a day at the Naval facility on Spectacle Island in Sydney Harbour with Madeleine, Neville and Dave Glasson. Dave actually lives on the island (and sometimes works there too).

12

He builds superb replicas of many of the old workboats seen on the harbour, some of which he had with him in Tasmania. He had also completely renovated an old working dog boat called 'Atlas' – she was a complete wreck when he bought her. He took 16 months to restore her, and what a great job he's done. And.....after a tour around the island he actually allowed us to go for a spin around the Harbour in her. Neville was driving, cos he's a 'boatie' and knows the Harbour pretty well. We headed for the Lane Cove River, but spotted the Svanen, a Sydney Harbour Tall Ship, unfurling her sails just on the western side of the Bridge. So we headed off in that direction and did a 'sail by' around the Tall Ship and then back to the Lane Cove River where Madeleine and Neville's little sailing boat 'Jenny Wren' is moored. She was built in the late 1880s and is a lovely old lady of the sea. We slowly returned to the Island looking at all the fabulous properties lining the water and the hundreds of boats moored close to the shores. There's a lot of 'money' around this Harbour. Back to the island for lunch and more things to look at. Dave finally took us back to shore and we went for a little drive and walk in a nearby park which led us down to the old Woolwich Dry Dock. This is not now used as a dry dock and there was a socking-great 3-masted gin-palace type yacht moored there apparently a rather up-market restaurant. Lesley and I had a day at the Sydney Maritime Museum starting off, of course with a trip on a ferry to Darling Harbour where the Museum is. There are two sailing ships moored there the 'James Craig' and a reproduction of Captain Cook's ship 'The Endeavour', as well as a sub, the 'Onslow' and an Australian Navy destroyer, HMAS Vampire. I took a few bellropes along with me, just in case there was anyone who might be interested. Some people who were involved with work on the Endeavour were very interested as was one of the guides on the ship itself. She was such a pleasant lady that I decided to make a small bellrope for her own boat. There wasn't as much ropework in the Museum as I would have liked, but the Museum as a whole was well worth a visit.

[bellrope from chapel at Garden Island]

A day or so later Dave Glasson invited me to spend some time with him on the Pyrmont Bridge next to the Museum. It's a swing bridge, and Dave, as one of the operators, has to spend some time each week ensuring that it all works properly. A few days later we came to the end of our 12-month Big Trip and sadly said goodbye to this lovely country. There are a lot more knotting-related photographs in our Webshots albums as well as others relating to our trip and crafts. <http://community.webshots.com/user/lesleywyatt> Also the full text of our trip is on our website should you wish to read it. www.wydon.co.uk

NB Photos taken on Spectacle Island by kind permission of the Royal Australian Navy.



Jeff Wyatt

[Ed - sorry we could not include all the wonderful photographs supplied by Jeff and Lesley - take a look at their web-site for full and glorious color shots]

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My Fellow Knot Tyers

My last letter found me still in a joyous state of mind from the Half Year meeting, though waiting for the change to the wintry season here in the southern states of the US. Well, like most of the unique weather patterns seen these days, an unusual snow appearance brought down our twenty-year record level of the frozen precipitation, albeit late in the season. Though the only loss was a weekend of sailing, it did provide some time to reflect on the activities around the globe and to relive the time in New Bedford covered wonderfully in the last Knotting Matters.

From the coverage of the Rotterdam 2009 meeting, I realized that another fantastic gathering of Guild members had taken place, as if it were a mirror image of the American meeting. The hard work of the Dutch Branch is greatly appreciated as a number of the IGKT missions were definitely highlighted, the education of the public and the joining of fellow tyers in hardy fellowship. Thank you for the great job.

Though the large gatherings bring together large numbers to one location, the local branch meetings still hold for many the continuous connection to our art and members, new and old tyers alike. It is through these local meetings that I know that I stay in contact with friends and get to learn at my own pace and not fear missing anything else that is going on. The goal of staying in touch with every member of the Guild is likewise one of the onerous tasks placed upon our Hon. Membership Secretary. One area that needs all of our attention is to make sure to update our post addresses and more importantly these days, our email addresses when they change. Postage is one of the most costly areas that our membership dues cover and a lost communication is often more costly in the frustration felt on either side of the communiqué.

On the lighter side of corresponding, the first installment of the world-wide caravanning adventure of Lesley and Jeff Wyatt brought a smile and a bite of envy to my heart. The joys and tribulations of travel are delightfully brought to light with their "little planned itinerary" truly being a list of fantastic places many of us would one day be pleased to visit. The second part is highly anticipated and reveals more stories about how, through a little time and bights of line, new eyes are opened to the joy of knots.

With the creation of the Ditty Bag Award, I have received a few inquiries about when to send in an entry and what is expected. The deadline is at the end of June and can be done either through the mail or sent in via the web email. A picture of your ditty and a short description is all that is required. For further information, please check the Guild's website or feel free to contact me.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

Lindsey,

Here is a ditty bag I finished recently [**see back page**]. The length is 15" and circumference is 28". The sleeve is made from 8 identical zig-zag pieces, 4 green and 4 navy blue. Each piece is 3.5" wide and I made these using a cardboard template [**pictured on back cover, top**], allowing for overlap and tabling. All seams are flat.

The eye of the lanyard is a plastic ring covered with two 17- turn interwoven grommets (black and green) and I gave the outer perimeter a pineapple finish for both decoration and to fill the inevitable gaps in this type of work. I then doubled five 3m.m. lengths of polypropylene through the ring and made a 12-strand MW (after adding 2 more strands). This is followed by "over 2" crowning reversed at intervals for a zig-zag effect. I then finished off with ABOK #737. The tails are then passed through the eyelets, seized, and the seizings covered with small Perfect Pineapple Knots. A sliding Pineapple Knot finished the job.

Regards.

Joe Bennett.

p.s. Skip Pennock sent me a kind letter regarding my board in the last KM [#105] but I have had no success in replying to him by e-mail. He may be in the process of changing his ISP or something. I would be grateful if anyone could give me his new e-mail address.

Joe.

From Karl Bareuther, Germany:

The following might be of interest for KM "How I did it". Indeed: "Heavy Work for a keyring maker like me"

Recently a lady came up from Hamburg (95 miles) and handed me over some 23 ft. of shroud-layed natural hempen rope, diameter 2,5 inches. She showed me a drawing (see pict.) and asked: "Would you be able to make out of this a playing-rope or cat's tree for my two little cats?" I said: "Heavy duty, but maybe...., how do you want the ends stopped?" She said: "Just a knot at an end and something different at the other end. And: for the cats tree shall hang from the ceiling, it needs two stable hinges too and, by the way, a climbing net between the two ends."

O.K., said I, not knowing what there was ahead of me. I started the work two days later and finished it after two more weeks.

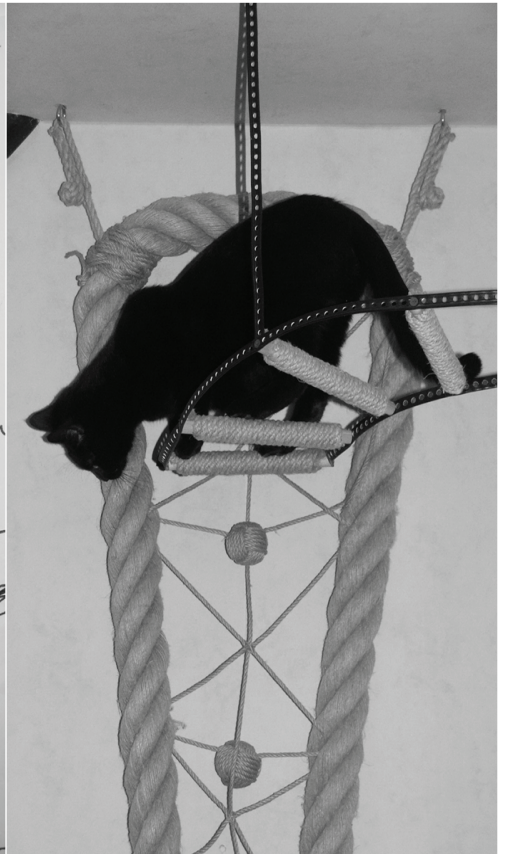
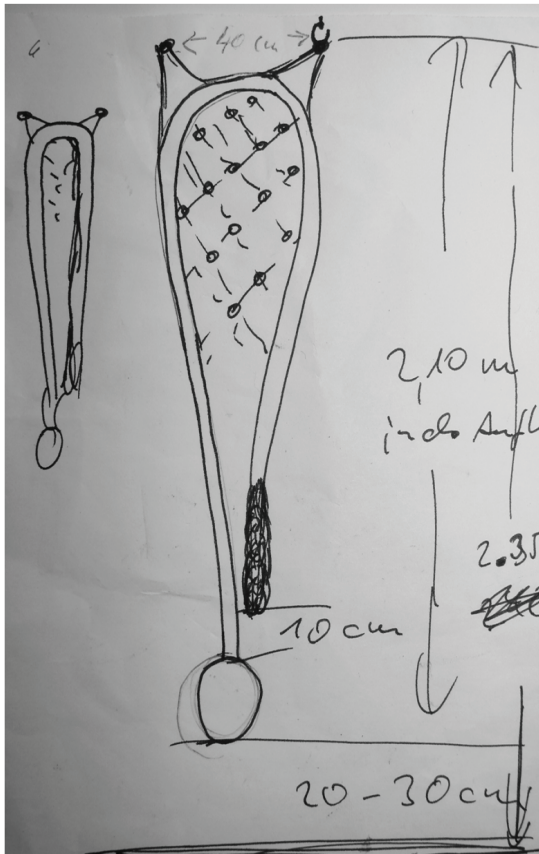
Did It s tell all

"How I did it?: After cutting 3 ft. of a wonderful Hawser layed core from both ends I finished the ends with Four Strand Rose Knot and Four Strand Backsplice. The ends of the hinges are worked for a certain length into the main rope and covered with Turks Heads. Ends of Rose Knot and Backsplice are covered with strong Turks Heads too. From top to the ends I worked in a net-like construction decorated with Monkey-Fist Knots (one after the other).

The lady was very happy about this, let's say, maybe rare piece of sailors' ropework.

Greetings from the other side of the Ocean

Karl



Tibor's Knot.

At the Cuxhaven Half Yearly meeting in October 2008, Tibor Fuzi was displaying some of his knot work whilst he was quietly and modestly wearing a flat triangular knot around his neck. He almost got away with it, but not completely; Marylee Warner spotted the knot and made arrangements for a master class which was a truly international class, with Tibor who was born in Hungary speaking German to Marilee who in turn spoke to me in American. The knot is a variation of ABOK # 551, alas as well as forgetting peoples names at meetings I forget what I have been taught, hence I was six months in the dark.

My luck was in because at the next meeting in Nottingham May 2009 Marilee came over from Germany with her husband and was able to conduct a revision course SLOWLY for me. This prompted me to contact Karl Bareuther and the Deutsche Sektion / German Branch to track down some Photos and text for KM.

As part of my research I showed Jeff Wyatt via SKYPE a hands on demo, who then promptly expanded it to 12 bights, he also confirmed any more than 6 bights as a base knot it will collapse. I was pleased when he said he had just toured all around Australia for 12 months and seen nothing new, knot wise, yet he was home just a few days and gets a different knot to put into his portfolio.

My tip would be, if you are tying this knot for the first time, try only 3 bights first. Trust me I have tried the "Oh that looks easy, let's go for the big one." WRONG! Start simple, you have been warned, the secret is the crimp that Tibor puts in the line.

We will of course await the judgement /blessing of Dan Lehman, as to whether or not we may use the title formally or informally of Tibor's Knot or will it be ABOK #551 forever?

Yours Aye

Ken Yalden

[Ed. See pages 32 - 34 for Tibor's translated version with photographs of how he did it.]

Our Cat Tower

By Lasse Carenvall

We have four cats, and they love their climbing/clawing tower – love it so much that the fuzzy fabric covering much of it got torn to shreds... The basic structure was still sound and cat furniture is rather expensive, so my wife and I came up with the idea of covering the round "house" and the top "shelf" in hitching, made from sisal yarn.

Did It

all (continued)

We knew from other things I had made for the cats that they do like the surface, and it is very wear resistant. My wife hinted that "After all, their owner is an IGKT member..." OK, I could not turn down that challenge, so after some planning, counting and testing I made it.

I did not count the hours (I doubt I really want to know) put into it, but the material used is about 450 metres of 2-strand sisal yarn. In order to get the hitching really tight and firm I used a threaded needle. Sisal is rough on the hands, so I used a pair of welder's leather gloves while working. When the job was done, the gloves were worn through on the fingers that took the most abuse.

The round opening in the "house" did present some technical challenges, but after going back to the drawing board a couple of times I managed to work my way around that. In order to make sure the hitching will not move around on the open surfaces of the house, I drilled holes in a number of places and made some anchor stitches through the wall. The hitching was done from the lower edge and upwards on both shelf and house. This was because I made the final rows of stitching into the edge of the sheepskin centre circles, sewing them into place and stretching them flat and firm.

The tower stands in a corner of our living-room, so we really want the whole thing to look nice. Also, there is not much point in doing a project like this and then not make it look really exclusive! In order to achieve this, my wife covered the tube under the top shelf in the same sheepskin used for the centre circles of the top surfaces of shelf and house. The inside of the house also has a "wall-to-wall" floor covering of sheepskin. The edge of the round opening is covered with 1.5 mm furniture grade leather, and the particle board bottom plate was replaced with an oiled beechwood plate - a cutoff from when we put in a new kitchen counter.

Finally, and most important: Did the cats like it? Oh, yes! During the work, they always sat looking at me! About a dozen stitches into each working session at least one of the cats jumped up on the tower and inspected my work, with an expression of "Will you ever get this thing finished, or what?" After it was finally finished, they have clearly demonstrated their satisfaction by clawing, climbing, playing and - a cat's favourite pastime - sleeping - on the tower (after all, the tower is a ridiculously extravagant tower, so a little gratitude is in order).

All in all it was the biggest knotting job I have done so far. It was lots of hard work and a few technical challenges - but also a lot of fun!

Lasse C

[Ed: See center pages for a real cat spread - towers, ropes, cradles - what's next? Watch this space!]

MYSTICAL & METAPHYSICAL KNOTS

by 'Knut Knute'

'During the last few weeks I've been trying to think of something absolutely original and devastating. I've been trying to lay my hands on some idea that'll revolutionize the world in some way.

Something like fire or the wheel.'

(Lin Cook, *Peter Cook Remembered*, 1996)

Those of us who not only occupy our fingers with practical and fancy knots but also exercise our minds with theoretical knotting exclude nothing from these mental workouts – impractical knots, legendary knots that may (or may not) exist, unexplained and inexplicable knots, imaginary knots. Because, just possibly some aspect of our nebulous notions might expand the knotting paradigm (see KM #99, June 2008); and a paradigm, once stretched, never returns to its old dimensions.

"Now look" we say to ourselves, "we don't know that this is true, [alternatively, we know that this is NOT true] but let's assume for a moment that it is. Where does it lead us?"

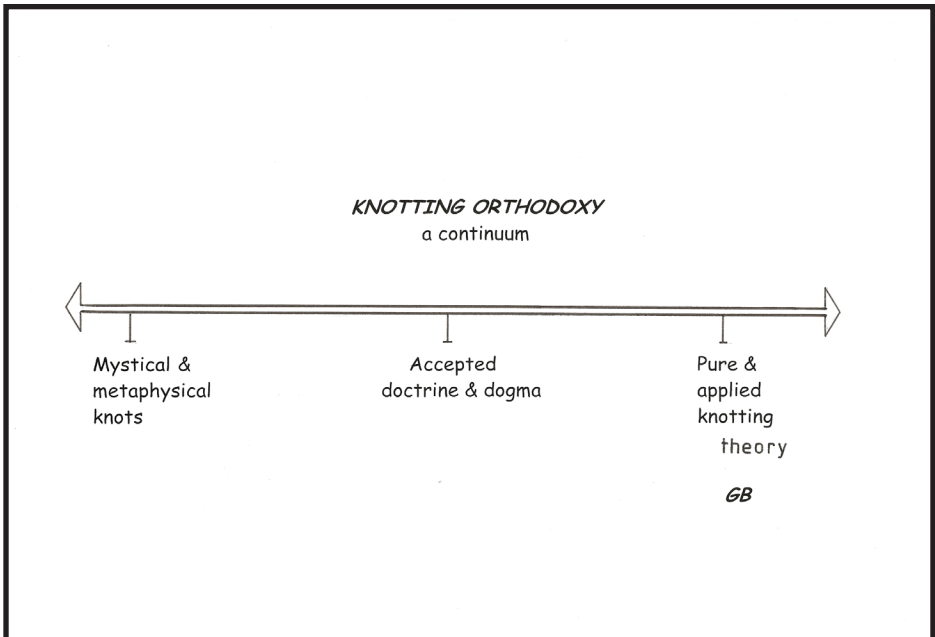
Some Guild members (those 'with long toes' upon which, as Georg Schaake observed, one cannot avoid treading) are uncomfortable with such fanciful pursuits. Yet anyone who believes in homeopathy – the distillations of which are so dilute that only a 'memory' of the active component is said to remain – might just as well credit the efficacy of knots to alleviate physical afflictions as dissimilar as headaches and hemorrhoids; accept the assertion of the ancient Roman chronicler Pliny (the Elder) that wounds bound with a reef knot healed quicker; have faith that the power of prayer is intensified by tying and counting rosary knots; and be impressed by reports of stroke victims regaining lost coordination after tying knots. Sorcery, catharsis or the placebo effect, call it what you will, there is anecdotal evidence for the metaphysical power of knotting.

Then again, if enough people could be given a simple knot to untie, the odds are that someone, somewhere would link the act with a stiff breeze arising to fill the sails of a previously becalmed yacht, or a stopped clock or watch spontaneously re-starting. All of this is, of course, at the unorthodox end of the knotting continuum [see illustration, next page], far removed from the purely classic or closed circuit topological knot theory of Gauss, Kelvin, Tait, et al, and the equally rigorous applied or real knot theory of Schaake & Turner.

Nevertheless, there is an unexploited gap in the market (and maybe a market in the gap) for knotting merchandise – books, amulets, charms, talismans, et cetera – to cater for customers and consumers of the arcane and supernatural. Mind you, any Guild member who ventured in this arena would need the promotional flair of Eric von Daniken (*Was God an Astronaut?*), Dan Brown (*the Da Vinci Code*), or Uri Geller (the Israeli-born, spoon-bending illusionist).

But we should never take ourselves too seriously. After all, some Guild members assure me the copper bracelets they wear soothe the signs and symptoms of arthritis. And, as the Danish physicist and 1922 Nobel Laureate Niels Bohr explained to a visitor who queried the 'lucky' horseshoe over his country cottage door,

"I certainly do not believe in this superstition. But you know, they say it does bring luck even if you don't believe in it."



Snippet from our UK Stringer

'Ropers pull together' is the motto of The Ropers School (founded in 1749), which is a leading independent, fee-paying school, now located in the Kent county cathedral city of Canterbury, England.

GUILD OBJECTIVES FOR 2010

Membership

1. To increase adult and family membership by 100 members, junior membership by 50 and groups by 20 members by 31 December 2010 compared to 31 December 2009.
2. To increase our corporate membership to 20.
3. Subject to AGM approval to introduce life membership for a fee to be set by the AGM.

Education

4. To update the website to include a better home page; show more details of knots and encourage members to use and contribute to the forum.
5. To review the form and purpose of the Guild library with a view to making it more accessible where possible.
6. To provide support to branches and members who wish to undertake educational activities by developing a pack of materials, charts, handouts etc.
7. To seek partnership agreements with at least 6 major youth bodies for our mutual benefit.
8. To develop our set of knot charts into a loose leaf format by supplying binders and a starter set for a subsidised price (free to Group members) then commissioning new material where the IGKT owns the copyright to be provided via the website.

Knotting Matters

9. To include at least 4 tutorials in the 2010 issues.
10. To assemble a set of technical articles to be added to the December 2010 edition.
11. To increase the cost effectiveness of publishing Knotting Matters by producing more for less money.

Archiving and Research

12. To sponsor research into at least one specific aspect of knotting.
13. To undertake research into the collection of knots we have, its location and what can be done to increase and store it making full use of branch resources where available.

Publicity

14. To provide UK Branches with new publicity material and to facilitate Branches overseas in procuring their own material where required.

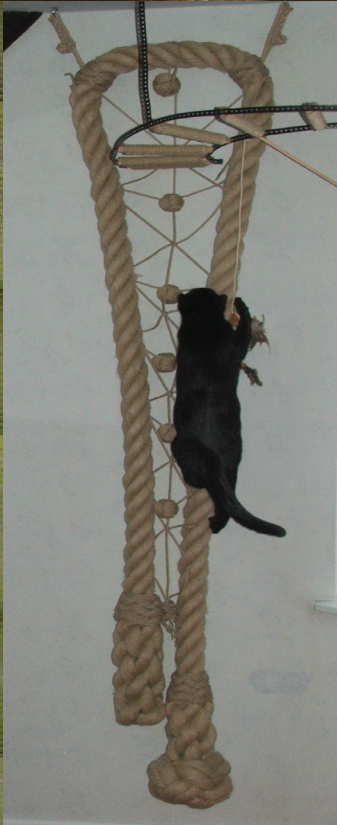
Administration

15. To simplify and streamline administration by accepting payments online by 31 March 2010.
16. To implement an improved financial management information system by 31 March 2010.
17. To review the Constitutional Rules in time for motions to be considered by the 2010 AGM.
18. With the agreement of the AGM to reduce the size of the Council to 9, 6 of whom shall be in addition to the President, Secretary and Treasurer¹.
19. To review the arrangements for audit of the accounts by 31 January 2010.
20. To review the necessity of using a Post Office box in view of the cost.
21. To draw up a communication timetable and produce the necessary papers for the AGM in accordance with the timetable.
22. To agree the locations for the 2010 half yearly meeting and the 2011 AGM and half yearly meeting by 30 April 2010.

¹There are 2 reasons for this – 9 means [that] 3 retire each year and we avoid an even split if a vote in Council is required (this can still happen and the rules provide for it but it is less likely) . We have effectively operated with 9 this year.



Top left, clockwise:
 Lasse Carenvall's tower
 Tower details
 The remains of his working welder's glove
 End details of Karl Bareuther's cat tree
 Cat in action - beware!
 Karl's true icicle hitch - details in the next
 issue?



SCALING LADDERS

from *Colin Grundy*

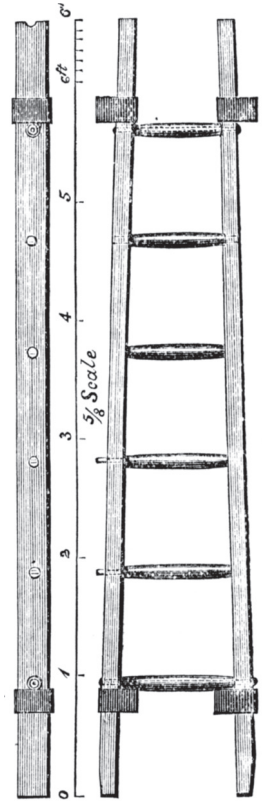
Scaling ladders, ("Yachtsman's Purchase", KM#104) were introduced into the London Fire Engine Establishment (forerunner of the present London Fire Brigade) by James Braidwood¹ in 1836. Braidwood (1800-1861) is considered to be the Father of the British Fire Service. The son of an Edinburgh builder, he joined the Edinburgh Volunteer Fire Brigade on leaving school. He was appointed to the post of Master of Engines of the Edinburgh Fire Engine Establishment, the world's first municipal fire brigade, in 1824. In 1833, Braidwood went on to become the first Superintendent of the newly created London Fire Engine Establishment. Sadly, always leading from the front, he lost his life in a warehouse fire at Tooley Street, London on 22nd June 1861.

Two scaling ladders (adapted from military scaling ladders) were carried on each fire engine. The ladders, made of wood, were 6 feet 6 inches long, and fitted with metal sockets above and below the top and bottom rounds (rungs)². Each ladder was tapered, enabling them to be fitted together. Seven or eight ladders could make a ladder upwards of 40 feet in length (after 1900, not more than five ladders were normally used).

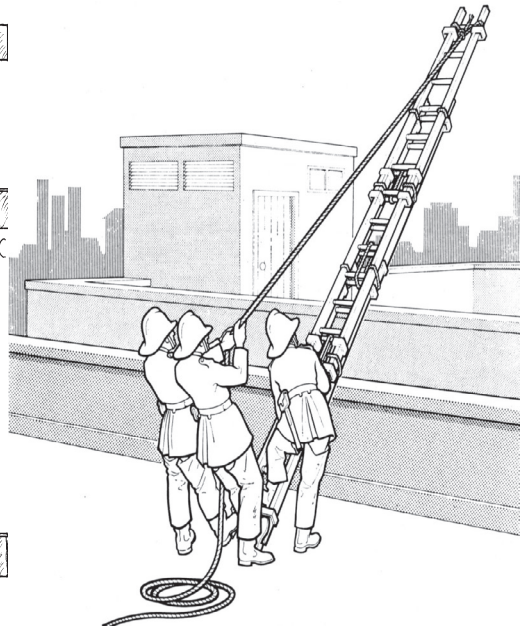
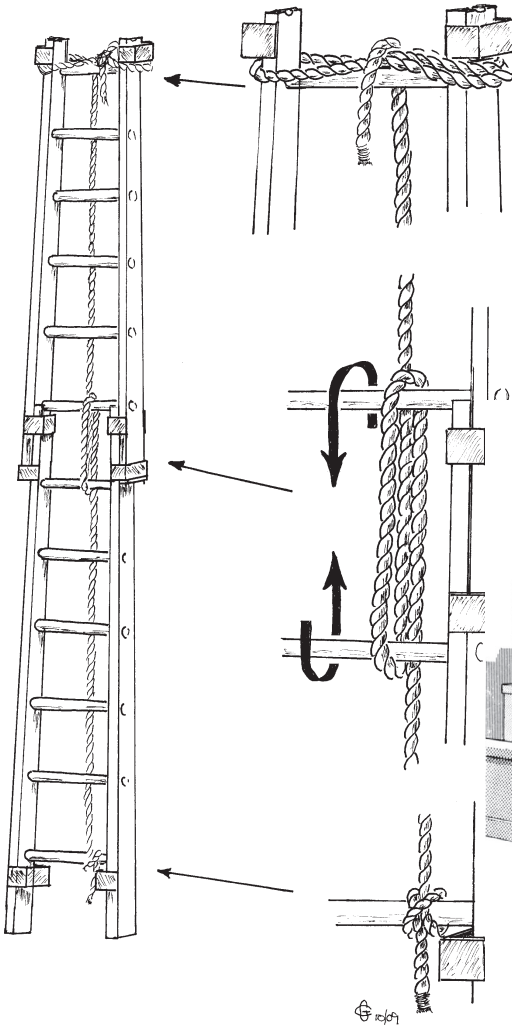
Although there existed some 1600 fire brigades prior to World War II, there was no national legislation covering who was responsible or how brigades were run. Thus there was no standardisation of equipment or methods, although many brigades ran on lines originally laid down in Massey Shaw's book, *Fire Protection*, or from a number of other publications produced during the previous 40 years. With war looming and the need for Civil Defence, the Fire Brigade Act, 1938, placed the responsibility for fire fighting at the door of local authorities. In addition, the Auxiliary Fire Service was created to supplement existing brigades. At the height of the blitz in 1941, all brigades were amalgamated into the National Fire Service under government control, and a move was made towards national standards of equipment and methods. The two main sources of reference now became, the *Manuals of Firemanship*, and the *Fire Service Drill Book*.



Clockwise from top left: James Braidwood; Scaling ladder (fire Protection - Massey Shaw); Bridging scaling ladders (Manual of Firemanship - copyright HMSO); Drill S4 - scaling ladder drill.



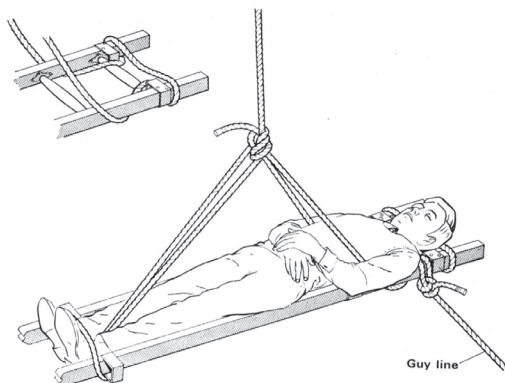
Side and Front View.



The yachtman's purchase, described by John Woosey, was one method of securing the ladders together, so that they did not come apart in use. His *Manual of Firemanship*, Part 6a, is probably the National Fire Service edition³. Certainly the yachtman's purchase is not described in my later edition of this manual. It is possible that the yachtman's purchase was dropped in favour of the simpler and quicker method described in the National Fire Service Drill Book⁴. This method appears to still be in use in the later edition of the Manual of Firemanship⁵.

Drill S4, Scaling Ladder Drill, Lowering into a Ships Hold, etc. to give it its full title, for three men involves making a clove hitch on the bottom round with one end of a short line (15m [50 ft]). The line is then taken up the underside of the ladder, over the bottom round of the next ladder, down the front and under the top round of the first ladder. The line is then taken up the underside of the next ladder and the process is repeated. When the top ladder is reached, the line is made fast, 'cleat fashion' under the sockets of the top ladder.

Another use for the scaling ladder is in lieu of a stretcher for lowering a casualty. In this instance, a chair knot is used to sling the ladder.



I have no record of when scaling ladders ceased to be used by fire brigades. In 1948, control of brigades was handed back to local authorities, and although there were still national standards on training and equipment, brigades were free to develop in their own way. Scaling ladders probably gave way to the

more versatile and lighter short extension ladder and had probably disappeared altogether by the mid seventies.

Footnotes-references

1 Fire Prevention and Fire Extinction, James Braidwood, Bell & Daldy, London, 1866

2 Fire Protection, Eyre Massey Shaw, 1876

3 Manual of Firemanship, Part 6a, Practical Firemanship – 1, Home Office, 1st Edition 1945.

4 National Fire Service Drill Book, Home Office, 3rd edition, 1942

5 Manual of Firemanship, Part 6a, Practical Firemanship – 1, Home Office, 2nd Edition 1971

1902 HAWSER LAID CABLE .

EXPLANATION : (From Tony Fisher NZ Chapter President)

This picture [p. 28] was given to me on the 19th February by a friend from Lower Hutt New Zealand. His father was an inveterate hoarder and this picture was found amongst his estate possessions.

THE CAPTION : (In beautiful handwriting on the back. I have copied the spacing and spelling of the original))

"Rosehill Oct 6/02

Photo of manilla cable manufactured by
R.Hood Haggie Ltd Willington Rope works England
This cable was made for the purpose of towing
The large new graving dock built by Swann &
Hunter Shipbuilders Wallsend out to Durban South Africa
The cable is 120 fm in length 18" in circumference & weighs
About 3 ½ tons & its breaking strain is 160 tons
This cable is one of 2 manufactured for this purpose
Along with 3 short steel cables 7 ½" cir. & each weighing
About 7cwt each & breaking strain of each is 90 tons

N Smith

Willington Terrace
Willington on Lyne
England"

[Editor's note: In case any of you are not familiar with all the notations used by Mr. Smith, here are some brief notes that may help (photographs overleaf):

The cable is referred to as being "120 fm in length" which translates to 120 fathoms or 720 feet or exactly 219.456 metres,

The "c" in "cwt" refers to the Latin abbreviation for "centum" meaning one hundred, although a 'hundredweight' actually weighs 112 pounds (8 stone or 50.80 kilos), not 100 as one might expect,

A cable is normally reckoned to be left laid (ABOK, page 598 - 602) using right-laid hawsers, but clearly the photograph shows the line to be right-laid. Three hawser-laid ropes make up to about 100 fathoms in length when laid as cable, so there may have been some discussion about this particular element of Mr. Smith's notes.]

Rosehill Oct 6/02

Photo of manilla cable manufactured by
 Wood Haggie & Co. Millington Rope works England
 this cable was made for the purpose of towing
 the large new graving dock built by Swann &
 Hunter shipbuilders Ballind. out to Durban South Africa
 the cable is 120 fm in length 18" ~~to~~ circumference & weighs
 about $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons & its breaking strain is 160 tons
 this cable is one of 2 manufactured for this purpose
 along with 3 short steel cables $4\frac{1}{2}$ " cir. each weighing
 about 7 cwt each & breaking strain of each is 90 tons

W. Smith

Millington Terrace

Millington on Lym

England



The Cody Knot

Can anybody help? I have been to see a replica aero plane that was the first heavier-than-air British plane to fly $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, at Farnborough in 1908. The original was built by Samuel F Cody (no, not buffalo Bill, but an admirer of his) who built the plane from bamboo and piano wire. All the wires were tied with what the museum called the "Cody knot". Now, when they said knot, I was intrigued as I had not heard of that one! On researching the knot (looking on the internet) there were no references except at F.A.S.T (www.codyflyerproject.com) so I looked in Ashley and found the first part as a binder knot #189 but not the finish. Can anybody tell me where Cody got the knot from? He started life in the "Wild West" where he learned to shoot and ride horses, later forming his skills into a circus act copying his hero William Frederick (Buffalo Bill) Cody. He then moved to Britain where he entertained many audiences with his act. He became interested in kites and was employed by the Army to develop a kite to lift an observer off the ground (as balloons could not be used in windy weather). He then became fascinated with the thing of the day, "flight" and developed a powered plane using his kite flying skills. On October 16, 1908 he took off and flew 75 yards with his British Army Aero Plane No.1A. He then flew again and covered 1,390 feet, which was over the required $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, at a height of 30-50 feet - this was the start of powered flight in Britain.

All ideas to Howard Denyer (Surrey Branch Chairman)
(howard@hdenyer.fsnet.co.uk)



THE RED STRING

by 'Knut Knute'

This article is an instance of the arcane knotting referred at elsewhere in this issue of KM in his Mystical & Metaphysical Knots - the 7th Instalment on a Philosophy of Knots

Madonna, Elizabeth Taylor, Winona Ryder, Mick Jagger and the Beckhams (David and Victoria) have all at one time or another worn on their wrists the woollen yarn promoted in the USA as 'The Red String' symbolizing adherence to the Kabbalah. Kabbala (Hebrew for Tradition), or cabbala, is an ancient theology dating from the 11th century, much written about between the 13th and 16th centuries [whence we inherit the English word 'cabal']

It was revived in the 20th century by the self-proclaimed rabbi Philip S. Berg, aided by his wife Karen with their two sons Yehuda and Michael, who now promote The Kabbalah as Technology for the Soul TM, although those who challenge its nebulous claims to relate 'the finite to the infinite' perceive it to be as relevant to Judaism and Jewish law as astrology is to astronomy or homeopathy to orthodox medicine. For spiritual protection the red string must be work 24/7 on the left wrist, wearers being advised to have someone they respect, trust and ideally love tie it on with a simple knot, repeated until there are seven knots. Dyeing white wool (which embodies the force of mercy) into red (which embodies judgment) ensures darkness is physically converted into light. The color red, being a diluted strain of negative energy, then vaccinates the faithful and immunizes them against the harmful forces streaming from the Evil Eye, not only removing negative influences but converting them into a healing form of energy. When the red string eventually falls off due to wear and tear - don't panic. Have another one tied. If, however, it falls off after just a few days - you must examine your energy and attitude to others.

Umm! Well, as a focus for self-help, this surely does no harm. After all, by adopting a positive frame of mind, leading a more ordered and joyful life, you may well fulfil your potential destiny - whether or not you wear the red string. In that respect it is like the proprietary health foods which claim 'as part of a regular diet' to help one lose weight.

There is an awful lot more to the Kabbalah, a summary of which can be read in The Red String Book by Yehuda Berg (official red string included), a Running Press (R) (Philadelphia, PA) Miniature Edition TM, published copyright 2008 by Kabbalah Centre International, Inc., (L.A., California). Price \$4.95 in the USA, C\$5.95 in Canada and UK 3.50 in the UK.

BOOK REVIEW

by Geoffrey Budworth

STRINGLOPEDIA

by Adam Hart-Davis, Illustrated by Paul Boston

first published in the UK 2009 by Collins & Brown (London), an imprint of Anova Books Company Ltd.

Copyright (C) Fil Rouge Press Ltd 2009

Text copyright (C) Adam Hart-Davis 2009

The author is an award-winning UK writer and broadcaster best known for his amusing yet informative science and history TV programs. This book, after the customary preamble on cordage materials, construction and terms, features a useful selection of 30 or so stopper and reef knots, bends, hitches loops and whippings. Knotting instruction is however merely the warm-up to an eclectic assortment of twine-related trivia (his phrase), complemented by apt and often humorous drawings.

Scenes of cordage utilization include: art and craft, sport, farming and animal husbandry, religion and folklore, math and music, food preparation, science, circus and theatre, as well as in the home, garage or garden and at sea. Instances of such uses are as disparate and diverse as polishing silver with string; a DIY seismograph; string vests; how the magalith statues on Easter Island may have been transported; string theory and a space elevator; world record balls of string; also lacing footwear for fun and fashion.

Adam Hart-Davis's book concludes with a couple of dozen cordage-related websites and an effective index.

Summary:

Hardback, closed with an amusing knotted lace

Size 16 cm (6 1/2-inches) X 21 cm (8 1/2-inches) and 192 pages

Reading level - teenage and adult

ISBN 978-1-84340-548-1

Price: UK pounds 9.99

One Strand, Sixfolded Knot

by Tibor Füzi, IGKT Germany

A length of Double Braid, 6 mm diameter, 7 feet long is recommended.

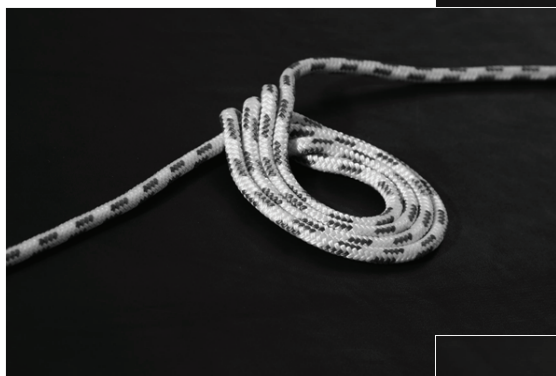
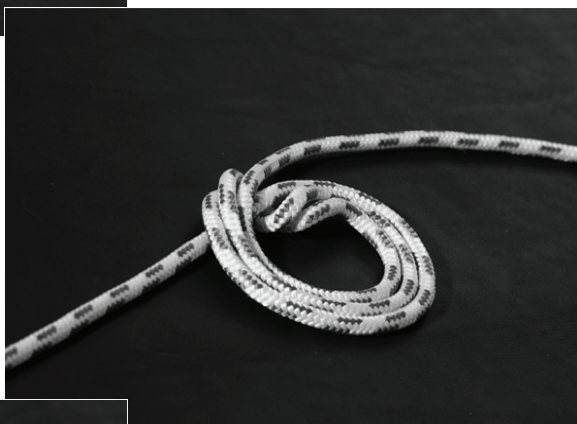
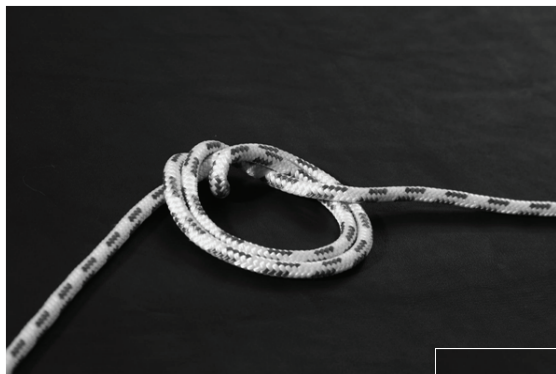


Tie an Overhand Knot, (clockwise, diam. approx. 4 inches) about 1 foot from the bitter end. Keep the crosspoint in position and rotate the working part clockwise , forming a kink.

position for all of actions - kinks are end product. The be positioned inside was previously laid. kink.

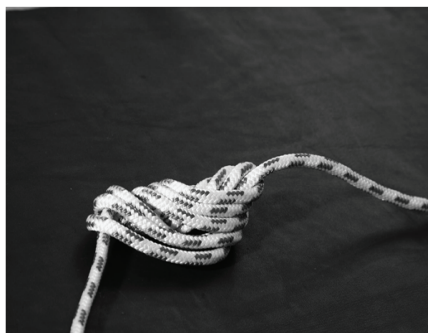


Keep the kink in the following **essential** for the working part is to of the knot which Form another





Keep the crossing point in position again and lay another kink. Any following knot has to be laid using the same "kink" procedure as before. If it happens that kinks get loose they should be worked back into a proper position. When all of the 6 knots are laid and brought into position, the slack has to be pulled out. Now the knot should be brought into a flat form & crossings should be avoided.



Hint: Start your first tries with the 3- or 4-folded knot that will make the principle of this One Strand Knot understandable.



One Strand Sixfolded Knot, fini.
Viele Grüße

Tibor Füzi

Branch Lines

Notice of Annual General Meeting, 2010

FROM FRIDAY 7TH MAY 2010 TO SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2010

Venue

Sea Cadet Unit at Weston Super.Mare (Training Ship Weston). The address of the Unit is: Sunnyside Road North, Weston Super Mare, North Somerset, BS23 3PZ

Workshops

We plan to run hands-on workshops on Saturday afternoon so if you can help by leading or acting as helper on a workshop please let us know on the attendance form as far in advance as possible.

Access to the Licensed Bar

There is a bar in the Unit. In order to comply with their licensing rules we have to provide a list of members who are attending 48 hours in advance. It is therefore imperative that you complete the attendance form if you want to have access to the bar!

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER

The Guild has an insurance policy with AXA to cover members when undertaking activities on behalf of the Guild such as demonstrating knots, giving talks and attending shows. If a member needs one I can supply a copy of our insurance certificate but there are some important matters I must bring to the attention of all members:

1. The insurance only covers activities in the UK. We cannot arrange insurance from the UK for other countries.
2. The insurance covers only Guild activities so for example if a member is acting on their own behalf eg selling items they have made they are NOT covered by our insurance in respect of those activities. I strongly recommend any member who undertakes such activities to take out a personal policy against public liability.
3. For a Guild event to be covered by insurance it should be notified to me as Secretary beforehand (something rarely if ever done I should add). Failing to do so could cause problems if a claim were to arise so in your own interests let me know by letter or e-mail (by all means specify several dates and venues at the same time).
4. If there is any indication at all that a claim may be made against the Guild then I must be notified of the circumstances, in writing, without delay (e-mail is acceptable). Failure to notify AXA in good time could result in a breach of the insurance conditions.

Barry Mault

Hon. Secretary

The meeting, which was held at the East Anglian Museum of Life, was opened with a minute of silence in memory of David Watson and John Addis who had both passed. He was a fine craftsman, but never made a song & dance about his work. Nevertheless he would always have something for our show & tell spot, when we would admire his work, but he would smile and say very little. He made bellropes, key fobs and earrings, often using blue & yellow, the colours of his local football team, Kings Lynn. His knotboards were particularly well executed, neatly laid out and carefully labelled, as can be seen by the attached photographs. He rarely made fenders, but when he did it was to the highest standard, as can be seen by the example he made for his brother-in-law. **[Ed - photographs in a separate section in June, 2010]**

Next meeting:

1pm, for 1.30 start 26th March 2010

The Windmill Room of the Abbots Hall Primary School,

Danescourt Ave

Stowmarket

Suffolk.

Main theme of the meeting will be "Braids" & my favourite knot

For more information contact:-

Des Pawson 01473 690090 or e-mail to: des@despawson.com

French Knotting Weekend

Tenth Anniversary

@ the Royal Ropery of Rochefort-sur-Mer

March 27 & 28, 2010

This year the French knotting weekend will be held in the Royal Ropery of Rochefort-sur-mer in the region of Charente-maritime. Throughout the weekend 27th and 28th March 2010, the Royal Ropery will be putting a temporary exhibitions hall at the disposal of IGKT and IGKT France so that members may present their work to the public.

Also the Royal Ropery will be giving us free entry to the museum and a special tour of the Hermione, the replica (in construction) of a three-masted frigate from 1780. For more information about the Hermione please go to the website at www.hermione.com and for the prestigious venue of the Royal Ropery, www.corderie-royale.com. On the practical side, please contact Rochefort-sur-mer Tourist Office for information about accommodation (hotels, youth hostels, campsites) within easy reach of the Royal Ropery, either through their website at <http://www.paysrochefortais-tourisme.com> or by telephone on +33 (0)546 990860 or email rochefort@paysrochefortais-tourisme.com. And don't forget, you are cordially invited to participate in the Annual General Meeting of the association IGKT France on the morning of Sunday 28th March. If you have some great ideas, projects or questions connected to the world of knotting, please don't hesitate to express them during the meeting. Voilà, a great get-together of knotters in a beautiful setting, steeped in maritime history, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the French Knotting Weekends and the French branch of the IGKT.

Surrey Branch

A reminder from KM #104 from Peter Goldstone:

"The subject is single-handed knotting". Members were challenged to attempt the Surrey Six, using only one hand to tie each of the six knots. Further, their idea was then to develop or demonstrate methods and aids that will assist anyone with a special need, whether that is a physical reduced ability or simply that occasionally we need an extra hand in tying new or complex knots. Peter asked if this could be brought to our members' attention as a theme across the whole membership to develop and compare experiences. This is your chance to be a star folks - what are your thoughts? Write to or call Peter or the Editor to tell us of your ideas and what works as well as what does not.

Upcoming Knotting Events:

26th-27th June 2010
Braunston Historic Boat Show
Braunston, Nr Daventry,
Northants
Contact: Colin Grundy

28th - 30th August 2010
Inland Waterways National Festival
Beale Park, Pangbourne, Nr Reading,
Berkshire
Contact: Colin Grundy

Stockholm, Sweden

Autumn Meeting - Open to ALL IGKT members

Details from Nils Gustavson and in next issue of KM

MAR-IGKT

The Mid-Atlantic Region (MAR) of the International Guild of Knot Tyers will hold its next meeting on Saturday, April 24 from 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m (or beyond) at the historic U.S.S. Constellation Museum in Baltimore Harbor.

If you are interested in knot tying, please join us. We will have some tutorials on tying fancy knots, but for the most part we will just meet and share our interest and joy in knot tying. There may be some traditional marlinspike rigging work aboard ship – t.b.d. Beginners are welcome. The meeting will be held in the office building at the entrance to the Constellation, on Pier 1 in Baltimore harbor. Please bring whatever knot work you are working on, and any knot tying tools you have. There are food courts all around, and some of us will go out for a snack after the meeting.

The meeting is free. Entrance (with interactive tour guide) to the historical square rigged U.S. Navy sloop-of-war Constellation is \$10, and is well worth it, for any of you who are interested in ships. Volunteer riggers get aboard free, so if we do any shipboard rigging work we may go aboard free. Parking in downtown Baltimore is not free! (Unless you are very clever). Contact me if you want information. For directions, you can look up Constellation on the web, or contact me, Michael Pollock, at m1chael.pollock@yahoo.com [Ed: note the use of a number 'one' in place of the letter 'i' in michael's e-mail address]. I would appreciate an email if you have any interest in coming, as we need to arrange for sufficient tutorial supplies and chairs.

I hope to see many of you there! Happy Knotting

Michael Pollock

New Zealand Chapter

Announcing the birth of the Kapiti Branch of the New Zealand Chapter on January 24, 2010 at Paraparaumu, Kapiti, NZ, founder Roger Carter. Well done all!

Tony Fisher

German Branch

Upcoming Event:

Knotters Meeting/General Assembly in the
Binnenschiffahrtsmuseum, Duisberg on April 09 - 11, 2010.
[www.binnenschiffahrtsmuseum.de]

Contact Andree Treffenfeld - Secretary Tel: +49 17 34 63 46 79

Essex Branch

It was with great sadness that I attended the final meeting and Christmas Party of the Guild's Essex Branch on January 10, 2010. Originally started by Don Woods (one of the original 25 members of the Guild) and the late Malcom Bates in 1992, it was the first officially ratified Branch of the IGKT. Don has led these meetings for many years at the Motor Boat Museum in the Watt Tyler Park in Pitsea, Essex. Unfortunately, in its wisdom, the local Council have decided to close the Museum, thus removing a perfect, free venue. Several regular attendees have left the area in recent years, so, due to the lack of newcomers it was reluctantly decided to disband the Branch. Notable members have been Geoffrey Budworth, Europa Chang Dawson, Tony Fisher (NZ) and the late Frank Harris and Brian Field.

On behalf of the Essex Branch members, I would to thank Don for all the time and effort he has put into the smooth running of branch meetings. I think thanks should also go to Don's wife, Dorothy, for all the help she has given him and for the Christmas feasts she has laid on for us over the years.

Once again, thanks Don from us all.

Jeff Wyatt

Dear Editor,

Regrettably I have to announce the dissolution of the Essex Branch. With the loss of our free venue at the Motorboat Museum Pitsea and with dwindling numbers of members with no new members coming in I feel the time is right to discontinue. Formed in 1992 by the late Malcolm Bates and myself we were the first branch to have our constitution ratified by the council. We had bi-monthly meetings with the January meeting being our Christmas/New Year party. We always aimed to have a workshop at our meetings ranging from Macramé; Turks heads; Wire rope serving etc. Our membership included such notables as Geoffrey Budworth, Europa Chang Dawson, Tony Fisher, Brian Field, Jeff Wyatt and Frank Harris. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Geoffrey, Europa, Jeff, and Sarah and Richard Ford for their contribution in running various workshops and the regular members for their continued support. I would also like to thank the staff of the Motorboat Museum for allowing us the privilege to meet at their venue, with special thanks to Julie, Judy and Mick for all their help. During our time there, we had two Guild meetings, the first in 1993 when the High Sheriff of Essex unveiled a plaque commemorating the Essex Branch. We had permanent display items given to the branch by Jan Hoefnagel, Brian Field and Geoffrey Budworth.

Don Woods
Essex Branch Secretary.



Solent Branch

Branch members meet on the second Tuesday of even numbered months at the Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club clubhouse. It is a cosy, welcoming venue, with picturesque views over the moorings and the countryside beyond. The attendance ranges between 15 - 20.

An agenda is sent to members by e-mail about two to three weeks ahead of the event. Besides being informed about points that need to be discussed, we are also told the name of a 'Knot of the Day' that we need to familiarise ourselves with and to bring an example to the meeting. Needless to say we refer to this as our 'home-work'. In the past we have had the Portuguese Sennet/Boatswain's Plait, Thumb knot/Overhand knot, Carrick bend/Josephine knot and many more. With regard to the Thumb knot the task was 'How many other knots begin with this one?'. What is also enlightening is the number of different names that knots can go under.

A sentence frequently heard is "Oh. I've always called that a.....". Not just 'different Country, different name.', but 'different area' or 'different profession'. After a short break for tea and biscuits, we sometimes have a short talk or demonstration by a member or an invited guest. It has a relationship to either knotting or to a subject that has knots or cordage involved with it.

It can truthfully be said that they are always very interesting. What will the next meeting bring I wonder?

Yorkshire Branch

Branch meetings will be held on March 21, 2010 and again on November 21, 2010. All IGKT members are welcome to attend and join us in celebrating knotting. We courageously invite all to join us in November, if our March date is not good for you, and I offer the full use of my own back yard for you to erect your own tent, if you should so wish [Ed - the above is not a verbatim translation of David's message of friendship, but it represents the gist of his magnanimity]. I shall look forward to seeing you all in wonderful brisk Yorkshire!

David Pearson

Of course a boat is not a natural thing ... the ingenuity of blocks and tackles, strops, sheets, halyards and warps, the sheer cleverness of knots.

(British author Adam Nicolson, *Atlantic Coast*, 2004)

To Borrow from Monty Python's Flying Circus
...and Now For Something Completely Different.....

Older Than Dirt Quiz!

Someone asked the other day, 'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?' 'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.' 'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?' 'It was a place called 'at home,'" I explained. 'Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.' By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it :

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis , set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card. My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow). We didn't have a television in our house until I was 19. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at midnight, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God; it came back on the air at about 6 a.m. and there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people. I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line. Pizzas were not delivered to our home... But milk was. All newspapers were delivered by boys and all boys delivered newspapers --my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 6AM every morning. Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies. There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing. Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it? MEMORIES from a friend : My Dad is cleaning out my grandmother's house (she died in December) and he brought me an old Royal Crown Cola bottle. In the bottle top was a stopper with a bunch of holes in it.. I knew immediately what it was, but my daughter had no idea. She thought they had tried to make it a salt shaker or something. I knew it as the bottle that sat on the end of the ironing board to 'sprinkle' clothes with because we didn't have steam irons. Man, I am old.

Older Than Dirt (continued) How many do you remember? Be honest!

1. Head lights dimmer switches on the floor.
 2. Ignition switches on the dashboard.
 3. Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards.
 4. Soldering irons you heat on a gas burner.
 5. Using hand signals for cars without turn signals and as part of the driving test.
- Here is the real quiz for your kids, grandkids and great-grand-kids:

Older Than Dirt Quiz :

Count all the ones that you remember having or being around
not the ones you were told about!

Ratings at the bottom.

1. Candy cigarettes or wire cheese-cutters
2. Coffee shops with tableside juke boxes
3. Home milk delivery in glass bottles
4. A party line on the telephone (meaning another party, not party!)
5. Newsreels before the movie (c'mon - were they sub-titled?)
6. TV test patterns after the last show that stayed there until the morning. (just 3 channels, if you were lucky)
7. Peashooters (spitwads don't count!)
8. Howdy Doody or the Lone Ranger/Bill & Ben
9. 45 RPM records
10. Hi-fi's
11. Metal ice trays with lever
12. Blue flashbulbs
13. Cork popguns
14. Studebakers or Austin 10-4's
15. Wash tub wringers - elm or rubber ?

If you remembered 0-3 = You're still young

If you remembered 3-6 = You are getting older

If you remembered 7-10 = Don't tell your age,

If you remembered 11-15 = You're older than dirt!

I might be older than dirt but those memories are some of the best parts of my life.

Don't forget to pass this along!!

Especially to all your really OLD friends....

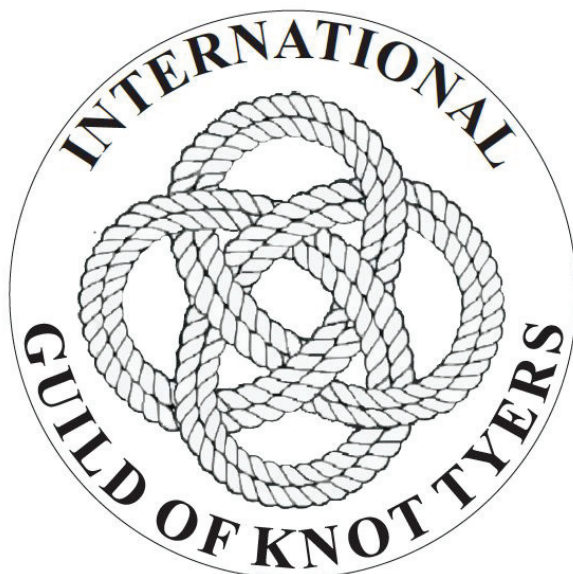
Last Word

This comes from Barry Mault, Honorary Secretary:

USING THE GUILD LOGO

The Council have formally agreed the design of the Guild logo. Two versions are available – one in monochrome [**below**] and one in colour [**front cover**]. Any member or Branch who wish(es) to incorporate the logo into stationery, clothing or souvenir items or on a website must use one of the approved versions and the wording must remain in English – any translation of “International Guild of Knot Tyers” must be clearly separate. Downloadable JPEG files are available via the Publications page of our website (www.igkt.net)

If a Branch has stationery etc., bearing an old version of the logo then this may be used until stocks run out but those with a website are asked to incorporate the new logo as soon as practicable please.



Knotting Diary and Calendar

GUILD MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting 2010

Weekend of May 7th/9th, 2010

Weston-super-Mare, UK.

Branch Meetings

Alaskan Branch

Every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:00

Anchorage Senior Center

1300 E. 19th Avenue, Anchorage

Contact: Mike Livingstone

Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch

Saturday March 20, 2010

The Windmill Room of the Abbots Hall Primary
School, Danescourt Ave., Stowmarket

Main theme of the meeting will be

Braiding

Contact: Des Pawson

Tel: +44(0)1473 690 090

e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch

Contact Graham MacLachlan

www.igktfrance.com

German Branch

Contact Peter Willems

Bauer Lanstr. 200c

24939 Flensburg

Germany

Tel: +49 461 73176

Fax: +49 461 7749318

e-mail: peter@fancyworks.de

Midlands Branch

The Old Swan, Netherton

Contact: Bruce Turley

Tel: 0121 453 4124

NorthWest Branch

Contact: Dave Walker (pending until further notice)

Tel: 01244 682117

Netherlands

Every last Saturday of the month (except December)

De Hoop, Rotterdam

Contact: Jan Hoefnagel

Tel: 078 614-6002

North American Branch - East Region

Contact: None available at press time

Tel: See handbook

North American Branch - Mid-Atlantic Region

Contact: Michael Pollock

Tel: See handbook

Pacific Americas Branch

Second Tuesday of each month,
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: 1-310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@yahoo.com

Solent Branch

Second Tuesday of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0)23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch

Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout
Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at
20:00hrs. Please phone for more details.
Contact: Secretary, Peter Goldstone
+44(0)1483 763054

Sussex Branch

For details
Contact: Andy Dart
Tel: 07720 813802

Sweden

Contact: Olof Nystrom tel. 08 265065
Pille Repmakar'n tel 08 6110144

West Country Knotters

Last Saturday of odd months
March 27th, 2010 @ 1300 hrs(?)
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch

Branch meeting 21 March
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Deadline Dates

Until further notice, the deadlines for getting material to the Editor are as follows:

For the June 2010 issue	1st of May, 2010
For the September 2010 issue	1st of August, 2010
For the December 2010 issue	1st of November, 2010
For the March 2011 issue	1st of February, 2011

SPECIAL NOTICE

**THE IGKT COUNCIL WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO APPLIED FOR THE POST
OF SUPPLIES SECRETARY. WELL DONE ALL OF YOU!**

